



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
CITIZEN COMPLAINT/COMPLIMENT FORM



COMPLIMENT ☐

COMPLAINT ☒

DATE AND TIME REPORT RECEIVED:

9/17/12

DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT:

N/A

REPORT RECEIVED VIA :

Person ☒ Phone ☐ Letter ☐ E-mail ☐

LOCATION OF INCIDENT:

Rio Arriba County

EMPLOYEE/ VEHICLE INFORMATION

NAME: Chris Valdez, Joey Gallegos, (Beavers)

BADGE:

ASSIGNMENT/DUTY STATION: D-7, Espanola

UNIT NUMBER:

REPORTING PARTY INFORMATION

NAME: Carol and Gilbert Romero

ADDRESS: PO Box 2 Cordova, New Mexico CR 82 Private Dr. 13 House #6

Work number: Home number: 505-321-4531 Cell number:

E-mail Address:

NARRATIVE

Mr. And Mrs Romero arrived at DPS Head Quarters, requested to meet with IA Staff to discuss their concerns pertaining to several matters they describe to be taking place in Rio Arriba County.

Matters ranging from:

* The handling of the criminal investigation by Rio Arriba Sheriffs Dept. as it relates to the death of their daughter, Amanda (Criminal investigation conducted by Rio Arriba County Sheriff's Dept.)

*Matters relating to the investigaion of their son (on-going criminal investigation) (no discussion)

*Matters relating to their grandchildren and custody related issues (civil matter)

*Matters of opinion as it relates to state police officer employee misconduct (Internal Matter)

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PARTY:

This document and the contents within are subject to being released for public inspection pursuant to Chapter 14, Article 2 NMSA 1978 "Inspection of Public Records Act." Findings and conclusions regarding complaints on Department of Public Safety employees are not publicly released.

SUPERVISOR TAKING COMPLAINT

NAME: IA Staff

SIGNATURE:



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
CITIZEN COMPLAINT/COMPLIMENT FORM

COMPLIMENT ☐COMPLAINT ☐

DATE AND TIME REPORT RECEIVED:	DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT: 12/18/2012 / 15:20
REPORT RECEIVED VIA: Person <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/>	LOCATION OF INCIDENT: LOVIN oven Riverside Dr. Espanola District 7
EMPLOYEE/ VEHICLE INFORMATION	
NAME: Eric Wilmeth	BADGE:
ASSIGNMENT/DUTY STATION: District 7	UNIT NUMBER: 142
REPORTING PARTY INFORMATION	
NAME: Lawrence Wright	
ADDRESS: PO Box 25, San Juan Pueblo, NM, 87566	
Work number: 505-455-2295	Home number:
Cell number: 927-4753	
E-mail Address:	
NARRATIVE	
See Attached.	
DEC 20 2012 Fax	
SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PARTY: RTING	Lhy
This document and the contents within are subject to being released for public inspection pursuant to Chapter 14, Article 2 NMSA 1978 "Inspection of Public Records Act." Findings and conclusions regarding complaints on Department of Public Safety employees are not publicly released.	
SUPERVISOR TAKING COMPLAINT	
NAME:	SIGNATURE:

I am writing and submitting this complaint to bring to your immediate attention.

On Tuesday December 18, 2012 at approximately 1520 hours, I was pulled over by New Mexico State Police Officer Eric Wilmeth for talking on my cell phone while driving. The traffic stop was conducted on Riverside drive at the Lovin Oven Bakery. This location is clearly within the exterior boundaries of the Santa Clara Indian Reservation. When the officer approached the driver's side window of my vehicle to retrieve my information as well as tell me why he had pulled me over. I immediately identified myself as a Native American and asked for a Tribal Police Officer be called to my location to issue the citations into Tribal Court. With that, the officer responded, No you may not!. I informed Officer Wilmeth that we were on tribal land and I had a right to request a Tribal Officer, I also told him that I was a former tribal Officer and knew the procedures for citing Tribal members on Tribal Land. After Officer Wilmeth denied me a Tribal officer I called a Tribal Officer that I know from another Tribal Agency had him call the Santa Clara Tribal Police and send them to the scene. A few moments later a Santa Clara Tribal Police Officer came and asked Officer Wilmeth if he had called. Officer Wilmeth told the Tribal Officer that he did not call him. Officer Wilmeth told the Tribal Officer something else that I could not make out but at that time the Tribal Officer left the area. Officer Wilmeth cited two citations, one for talking on a cell phone while driving, the second for mandatory proof of financial responsibility. He also cited me into Magistrate Court for expired registration.

I am not denying by any means that I was talking on my cell and that my vehicle was not registered. But the concern to me was that he denied me a Tribal Officer which I am entitled to. According to the full faith and credit clause, Officer Willmeth violated Public Law 280 1953, which gives Tribal Courts Jurisdiction over Native American on Tribal Lands.

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To Whom It May Concern :

November 4, 2013

I had a very disturbing and frightening experience with an officer in your employ in San Cristobal on the night of October 30th 2013. At 9:45 pm Officer Salazar was driving in front of me heading south. He pulled over and I passed him. He immediately pulled in behind me and flashed his red and blues. I pulled over and he approached my vehicle. I rolled down the window and placed my hands in the 10 and 2 position.

Officer Salazar asked me why I was speeding. I responded that if I was speeding I was unaware of that fact. I just passed an elk in the road about a half mile back and was being cautious and not looking at my speedometer. I asked him how he clocked me speeding since he was driving in front of me. I was aware for that time I was maintaining an appropriate distance from his vehicle. He stated he had "put on my rear radar." After presenting all information; DL, registration and insurance, he wrote the ticket and told me I could go to court or sign the penalty assessment. I stated I wanted to go to court. His response was that I either signed the ticket to pay it, or he would site me in Rio Arriba County and I would have to appear in Chama (?) I put a question mark there, due to my knowledge that this is not the town I would have to travel to, but he insisted.

During the course of our conversation, I was cooperative and friendly. I have a deep respect for law enforcement, have no resistance to appropriate consequences to my actions, but his claim that I was speeding 20 miles an hour over the speed limit did not seem correct, and I wished to have my constitutional right to appear in court equally respected.

I have written a motion for discovery to obtain the radar's user's manual, the tuning fork certification for accuracy and serial number; the officer's certification and training, as well as the officer's arrest record for the day I was pulled over and three months prior. I will request all of the officer's notes and state and department protocols for operating the radar, as well as the repair logs and calibration for the vehicle the officer was driving on the day I was pulled over.

The officer made a very strange comment, "since you know Judge Ortega I'm not taking any chances that you are going to get out of this." This was not only inaccurate but as equally inappropriate. I felt as if he were questioning the judge's integrity to find without prejudice.

The officer's body language and tone were also very threatening to a woman alone, after 10pm on a rural stretch of road. I felt extremely unsafe, and in my line of work my threshold for feeling threatened is relatively high.

In my position, I work with several officers in addressing the stressors of their jobs and their military experience. I am as I said, very supportive of the conditions and situations they have to perform under. In trying to maintain a positive rapport with Officer Salazar I did mention it would be embarrassing for me to find myself in front of Judge Ortega. I have been trying to establish a Veterans Court track within the 8th Judicial District, but I have not yet met with any of the judges on this matter, nor had I claimed to. This seemed to irritate Officer Salazar, and he became ruder, and more threatening, not only in his speech but demeanor. I started texting several people, including my ex-husband, my location and the

conditions I found myself under. They are time stamped and will also be presented in court if necessary. I was in fear for my physical safety.

I signed the ticket, which was not my wish, but I felt in order to extricate myself safely from the situation I was given no choice, I drove directly to the Taos PD on Placitas Lane in Taos. There were no officers present so I called dispatch and was told there was an accident and all officers were attending to it. The dispatcher (Nicole) told me to call back in several hours or call the next day. The next morning I went directly to the Sheriff's department and spoke with Sheriff Edward Romero who gave me specific directions on how to follow-up with you, due to the lack of responsiveness of the State Police office in Taos.

At church the following day I shared my experience, and found two woman who had been dealt with in the same manner, by the same officer, on the same stretch of road. One is willing to come forward with a written/verbal statement of her experience. Her name is Katherine Hall 575-770-1136. The other woman has already paid her ticket, but was reduced to tears when she found out that this seems to be a repetitive event. She may be willing to write out her experience and file it with your office, or our attorney, should we be compelled to retain one. I will also continue by any means I have to find others with similar experiences. Although I have found only three so far, there seems to be an established pattern which concerns me, and I hope equally concerns your office.

You have many fine officers; Tomas Romero, Elias Montoya, Travis Skinner, Dominic Romero, and several others I could name, have been invaluable to our community in regard to their providing a needed public service. They allow us to feel a little safer, they are compassionate and professional, and I personally have a great respect for the role of law enforcement in our community. I come from a family of combat veterans and many who went on to a career in law enforcement. I have never expected nor would wish for any preferential treatment because of that fact. It would be, in my opinion, dishonorable.

I hope you take my experience under consideration, but I must also inform you that if I am "pulled over" again by this same officer, I will not stop, but will drive to the nearest police station, which is also my right. I will also be recording any and all interactions.

My understanding is that traffic stops should be recorded from either a lapel camera or from the officer's vehicle. From where he parked it would have been nearly impossible for this to have occurred, but if there is a recording I would ask that it be reviewed.

I would appreciate a response to this correspondence so it is understood my signature was coerced and I wish to be seen in any court to address this penalty assessment.

Sincerely,

Michele H. Beuttel-Laughlin

(575)751-0328 x 112



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CITIZEN COMPLAINT/COMPLIMENT FORM

APR 11 2013



DVD

COMPLIMENT ☐COMPLAINT ☒

DATE AND TIME REPORT RECEIVED:

MARCH 15, 2013 11am

DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT:

11-4-12

REPORT RECEIVED VIA: RECORDS

LOCATION OF INCIDENT:

Person ☒ Phone ☐ Letter ☐ E-mail ☐

CORR. 21-26 La Billa, Alameda NM

EMPLOYEE/ VEHICLE INFORMATION

NAME: C. Herrera (CARLOS)

BADGE:

ASSIGNMENT/DUTY STATION: Espanola

UNIT NUMBER:

REPORTING PARTY INFORMATION

MAR 15 2013

NAME: LEONARDO ESQUIBEL

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 837 Alameda NM 87511

Work number:

Home number: 852 9631

Cell number: 927-0252

E-mail Address:

NARRATIVE

On Nov 4, 2012 officer C. Herrera & another officer at 1:20 AM, officer C. Herrera & his partner walked into my house without a warrant questioned my son for no reason at all. They claimed someone called 911 from my house walked out into my front yard with their flash lights on, they jumped over our white wall fence into my front yard. never bothered to come in the front drive way. The other officer

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PARTY:

Leonardo Esquivel

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SUPERVISOR TAKING COMPLAINT

NAME:

SIGNATURE:

With officer Herrera refused to give
me his name. officer Perea handed
me ~~a~~ a state patrol card with his
name ~~of~~ on back of card.